



TERRY SCOTT
... Wycombe scorer

Wycombe meet Burnham

Wycombe Wanderers take an enforced break from their hectic Berger Isthmian League programme tonight (Tuesday) when they entertain progressive Athenian League side Burnham in a friendly at Loakes Park.

Blues were due to travel to meet Kingstonian in a league match. But the Ks are involved in an F.A. Trophy first qualifying replay with Maidenhead United after drawing 1-1 at York Road on Saturday.

This respite will give manager Andy Williams the chance to give some of his second string players a game and rest his walking wounded.

Palace

Blues have also fixed up a friendly with Division Two leaders Crystal Palace at Loakes Park on Monday November 13.

This fixture against one of the most attractive and successful sides in the country, was arranged as part of the deal for the transfer of Steve Perrin to Palace two years ago.

Blues need fresh blood

By **MICHAEL KNOX**
Wycombe Wanderers 1, Walthamstow 2

IF Saturday's defeat by Walthamstow Avenue is any guide — and I think it is — Wycombe Wanderers are going to have to bring in some new players if they are to challenge for the Berger Isthmian League title this season.

After their second inept performance in less than a week, Wycombe fans, used to success, are entitled to become impatient with a side whose shortage of skill and organisation leaves a lot to be desired.

There are of course, the usual excuses of injuries — Wycombe's leading two strikers missed the game — but that does excuse the main area of discontentment mid-field.

The middle three of Dave Allanson, Howard Kennedy and Mick Holifield, are the first choice players in the position. But for the second match running they failed to gain control of the match. Walthamstow, unlike Slough, took full advantage and snatched a deserved winner in the last minute.

Inconsistent

At times this season Allanson has looked a class player. But overall his workrate is poor, while his distribution is inconsistent. For such a big man, his tackling lacks commitment.

Howard Kennedy does not appear match fit, despite playing in the past three games while skipper Holifield, for all his enthusiasm and skill, is too often forced to attack from too deep a position.

Wanderers made two changes from the side that drew 0-0 with Slough. Paul Birdseye, fit again, replaced John Priestley, while Steve Long, injured in the last minute of that game, was replaced by Terry Scott.

Indeed it was Scott who opened the Blues' scoring in the 15th minute, after Avenue had forced the early pace. Holifield's corner to the near post was brilliantly flicked on by Steve

Hardwick and Scott snapped in the shot from close range.

In days gone by, once Wycombe took the lead at Loakes Park, the match was all over. But this slender lead never suggested permanence and Walthamstow deservedly equalised eight minutes later.

Wycombe's defence failed, despite many opportunities, to clear the ball following a free-kick. It eventually fell to the left foot of Dickie Sedgwick who shot fiercely past Peter Spittle, who appeared to be unsighted and did not move.

Chances

There was little to choose between the sides in the first half although Blues produced the best chances. Avenue keeper Barry Wilson did well to tip a fierce drive from Kennedy over the bar while a neat break by Scott, who

slipped the defence, fizzled through lack of support.

The longer the match progressed the less Wycombe looked like scoring, as Avenue inspired by their mid-field youngster Russell Kean — he could go far — and Alan Hunter, found gaps in the reshuffled home defence.

In a last desperate attempt to force victory Blues threw everybody into attack. Unfortunately Birdseye's pass failed to reach Allanson. Hunter pounced onto the loose ball leaving the defence stretched.

Good work by John Worrell, who controlled the ball well, laid on a chance for Vince Cotter, who planted the ball past a helpless Spittle.

This was a sad moment for Wycombe, because not only had they fallen to the second defeat against Walthamstow

this season, but they knew they deserved to.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, S. Hardwick, K. Mead, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, L. Reid (sub.: J. Priestley 80 mins), M. Holifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

WALTHAMSTOW: B. Wilson, J. Webberley, H. Dowe, R. Kean (sub.: R. Tappit 83 mins), D. Wells, R. Jarman, I. Morris, R. Sedgwick, J. Worrell, V. Cotter, A. Hunter.

Referee: T. Maber (Ruislip).
Scorers: Wycombe — Scott (15 mins); Walthamstow — Sedgwick (23), Cotter (69).

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE (October 15, 1978)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	17	10	2	5	30	16	32
Croydon	13	9	1	3	29	15	28
Wycombe	17	8	4	5	27	16	28
Hendon	17	8	4	5	26	25	28
Leatherhead	14	8	2	4	26	11	26
Dulwich	13	7	5	1	17	7	26
Barking	13	7	4	2	34	22	25
Walthamstow	14	8	1	5	24	15	25
Woking	14	6	5	3	28	20	23
Dagenham	16	7	2	7	21	24	23
Hitchin	16	7	2	7	22	27	23
Boreham Wd	14	6	4	4	19	14	22
Slough	13	6	3	4	11	10	21
Tooting	17	6	3	8	22	26	21
Staines	14	4	3	7	18	24	15
Oxford	13	4	3	6	16	26	15
Hayes	14	3	5	6	17	25	14
Sutton	15	3	3	9	14	23	12
Tilbury	14	3	2	9	18	36	11
Carshalton	13	0	7	6	13	23	7
Lutonstone	12	1	2	9	8	20	5

COMMENT

Ratepayers come first

IT IS too easy to condemn Wycombe District Council for allowing a kiosk for its own lottery in the Octagon while refusing an application in March from Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

The distinction, however, was made very clear by the council's Chief Executive, Mr William Roberts, who pointed out that the council's was a public lottery while the football club's remained a purely private affair.

If the council is to run a lottery then, in the interests of every ratepayer, it has a duty to run it as profitably as possible.

And if that seems a little unfair then so be it. The council would soon be under fire if its lottery lagged behind while private lotteries flourished.

Wycombe councillors must do all they can to support the Wanderers. But their first responsibility is to the ratepayers — not all of whom seem to take much interest in what Wycombe Wanderers should be about — football.